

book of the month *Agape Leadership* – Robert L Peterson & Alexander Strauch

My guess is that few people in our church body have ever heard of R. C. Chapman. This is not surprising since Chapman himself would have wanted it this way. Nevertheless, R. C. Chapman (1803-1902) was a godly man and all of us would greatly benefit from knowing a little bit about his life.

Many of his friends are well-known stalwarts of the Christian faith – Charles Spurgeon, George Mueller, and Hudson Taylor, to name a few. Chapman was a faithful preacher and pastor who never married, but chose to live amongst the poor in England, committing his life to quietly shepherding God's flock. He was known for his preeminent godliness, Christ-like humility, sincere charity, and infectious joy. He was an exemplary model of what we call at Grace Bible Church the practice of *heart shepherding*.

In this little, 80-page volume, you will learn about a man who was said to practice what other preachers preached. The testimony of this deceased saint will encourage, challenge, and instruct all who read *Agape Leadership*. Lessons to be learned from this brief overview of his life include practicing the spiritual disciplines, humility, unity amongst believers, evangelism, hospitality, loving others, prayer, and more. The quotes below provide a glimpse into the godliness of R. C. Chapman's life and are sure to bring the BUILD and Wellspring disciplines to mind.

Quotes

"When we would consider the love of God in Christ, we are as one approaching the ocean: he casts a glance on the surface, but the depths he cannot sound."

"The great cause of neglecting the Scriptures is not want of time, but want of heart, some idol taking the place of Christ."

"It is a thriving soul that finds the Book of God growing more and more precious."

"My business is to love others, not to seek that others shall love me."

"It is better to lose your purse than your temper."

"There is more glory brought to God by a man ruling his family according to Christ, than even by a just potentate ruling a kingdom."

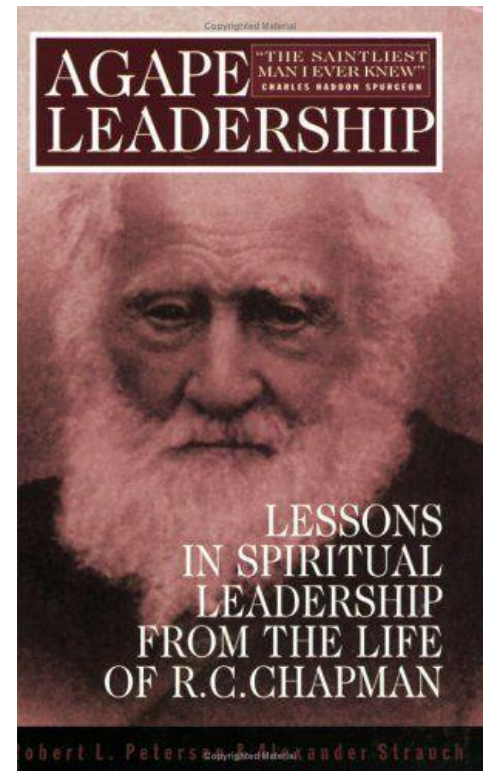
"To reform the church of God we should always begin with self-reform."

"The ruin of a kingdom is a little thing in God's sight, in comparison with division among a handful of sinners redeemed by the blood of Christ."

"We need one another; are dependent on one another—not as fountains, but as channels of blessing."

"All who labor for Christ shall receive great wages for little toil."

"How much better to be the sufferer than the wrongdoer!"



Suggested One-Month Reading Plan (less than 3 pages per day)

Week 1: Monday, the 1st – Sunday, the 7th

Preface – 2 pages

Agape Leadership – 6 pages

Spirit-controlled Character – 7 pages

Week 2: Monday, the 8th – Sunday, the 14th

Being Patient and Gentle – 6 pages

Maintaining Unity – 6 pages

Discipling and Reconciling – 5 pages

Week 3: Monday, the 15th – Sunday, the 21st

Forgiving and Blessing Others – 3 pages

Hospitality – 5 pages

Giving to the Needy – 5 pages

Working Together in Love – 6 pages

Week 4: Monday, the 22nd – Sunday, the 28th

Vision and Evangelism – 8 pages

Self-discipline – 4 pages

Prayer and Worship – 5 pages